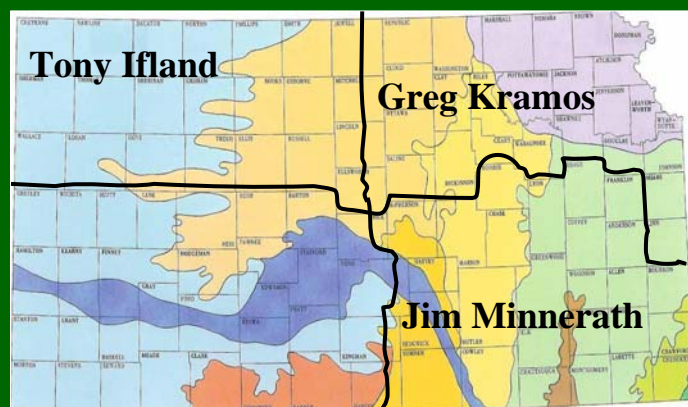




# Kansas Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

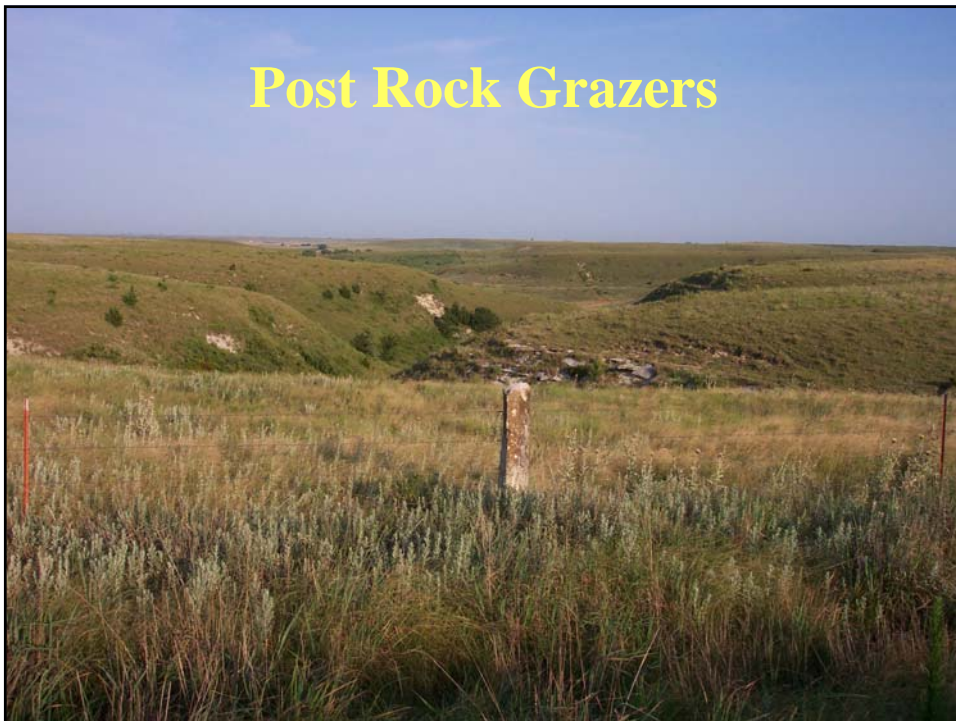


State Coordinator- Mike Rich

## Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation

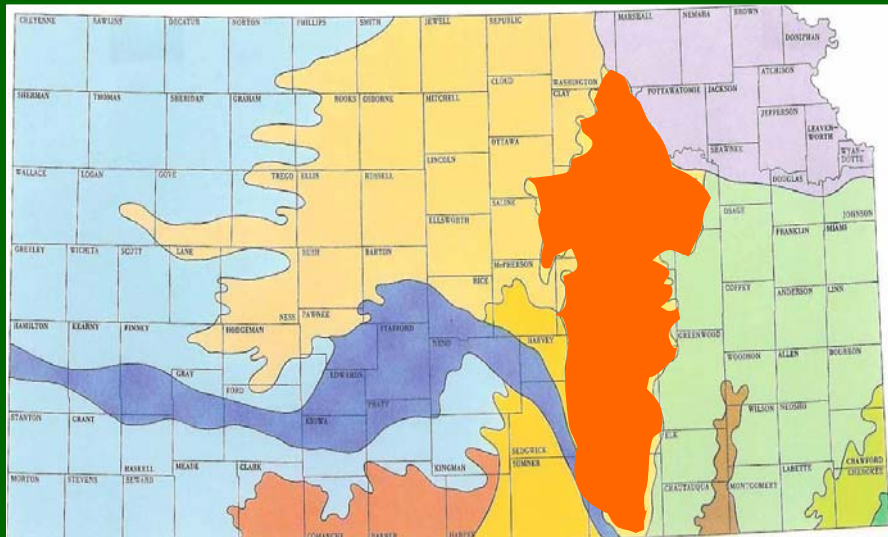


## Post Rock Grazers

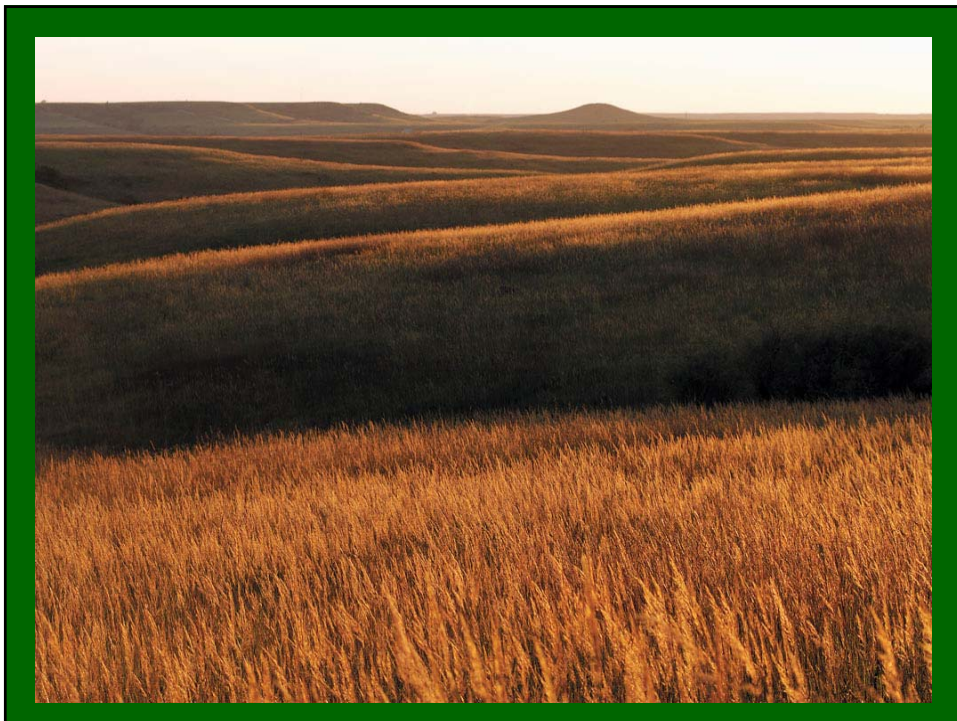


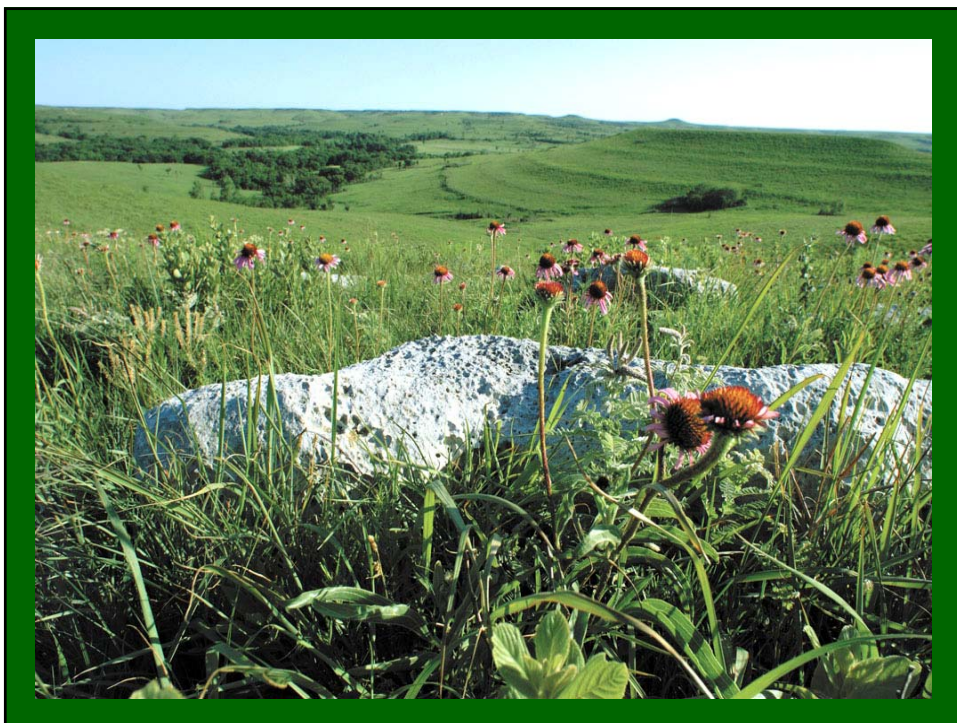
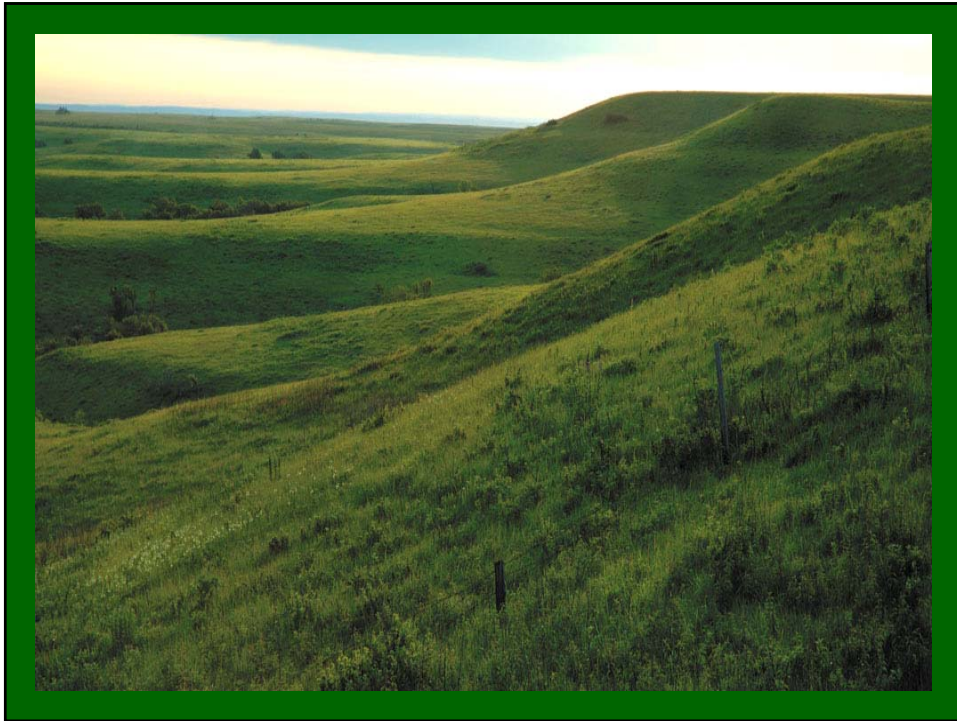
# Tallgrass Legacy Alliance

## Flint Hills Tallgrass Prairie















## History



➤ The TLA originated in 1999 with a core group of ranchers and environmentalist

➤ The following facts were generated early on to stimulate recognition of a need for action:

-Less than 4% of the Tallgrass prairie remains in North America.

-Historically, Kansas ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the nation in acreage of Tallgrass prairie, but today Kansas has almost as much Tallgrass prairie as all other prairie states combined.

-Even so, 82.6% of the historic Tallgrass prairie in Kansas has already been lost.

## Mission Statement

“Conserving and enhancing the biological, economic and cultural integrity of the Tallgrass prairie through a coalition of ranchers, environmental organizations and public agencies.”



## Organizational Representation

### Rancher/Landowner Cooperators:

Collinge Ranch  
Moxley Ranch  
Ferrell Ranch  
Highland Ranch  
Vestring Ranch  
Sproul Ranch  
Homestead Ranch  
Hickok Ranch  
Five Cr. Ranch  
M7 Ranch  
Flying W Ranch

### Advisors:

Natural Resource Conservation  
Service

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- State Conservation Commission
- Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
- Kansas Biological Survey
- Kansas Livestock Association
- Kansas Farm Bureau
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
- Kansas State Research and Extension
- The Nature Conservancy
- Resource Conservation and Development
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Wildlife Management Institute
- National Cattlemen's Beef Association
- Quail Unlimited

## Issues of concern: Fragmentation



## Invasive species



## Lack of ranch profitability





Lack of private, state or federal financial incentives to manage tallgrass prairie in a sustainable manner



Loss of native species and the associated social, fiscal and biological implications



## Goals of the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance

1. Serving as a producer driven, landscape scale initiative, designed for private landowners to voluntarily, with agency assistance, manage the remaining Kansas Tallgrass Prairie in a manner that fiscally supports the ranching culture and does so in an ecologically sound manner, precluding any further listing of Tallgrass species under the Endangered Species Act.
2. Facilitate specific Farm Bill policies for Tallgrass prairie
3. Assist with development and understanding of conservation easement programs
4. Generate better utilization of existing programs for the benefit of Kansas Tallgrass Prairie



5. Prevent further loss of Tallgrass Prairie
6. Facilitate public awareness of the benefits provided by Kansas Tallgrass prairie



## Accomplishments

- New level of cooperation between diverse groups:  
Kansas Livestock Association, The Nature Conservancy, Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks, Farm Bureau, US Fish & Wildlife Service and others
- Facilitate development and implementation of conservation easement programs
- Active participation in Farm Bill program design through the Wildlife Management Institute
- Increased awareness and support for Tallgrass Prairie
- Establishment of habitat enhancement program:  
200,000 acres affected

## Habitat accomplishments...The first step... the Kitchen Table



We build fences...

We take fences out...





We plant trees...



We cut trees...

## Prescribed Burning



## Spot Spraying



## Savanna Management



## Hay Meadow Management



## Encourage creative grazing systems designed to promote heterogeneity

- Multiple grazing regimes
- Rotational grazing
- Alternative watering systems
- Prescribe fire
- Multi-species grazing
- Patch burning (rotational grazing without fences)





## THE FUTURE OF THE T.L.A.

CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

1. INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL
2. CONSERVATION EASEMENTS
3. FRAGMENTATION REDUCTION
4. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS ON TALLGRASS PRAIRIE ISSUES
5. EXSPAND EFFORTS INTO THE NORTHERN KANSAS FLINT HILLS AND THE SOUTHERN FLINT HILLS OF OKLAHOMA

## CONCLUSION

- Through the Tallgrass Legacy Alliance, opportunities for community based cooperative conservation are as boundless as our own imaginations.





US Fish and Wildlife Contact

Jim Minnerath

Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

(620) 392-5553 x104

[James\\_Minnerath@fws.gov](mailto:James_Minnerath@fws.gov)